

# ST. MARTIN



# PARISH

*“...the health of a community is a shared responsibility of many entities, organizations and interests in the community, including health services delivery organizations, public health agencies, other public and private entities and the people of a community.”*

– Institute of Medicine. 1996. *Healthy Communities: New Partnerships for the Future of Public Health*. National Academy Press. p. 12



**ST. MARTIN  
PARISH**

## St. Martin Parish

**St. Martin Parish  
Tourist Commission**  
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337-394-2200

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Public Health**  
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### History<sup>1</sup>

St. Martin Parish was established as Attakapas Parish on March 31, 1807. It received its present name on April 17, 1811. It is in the center of the historic Teche country, the land of the Acadians and Evangeline. Even before the Acadians settled in this section, a “post” existed at St. Martinville. A number of officers of noble French and Spanish families remained after their appointments expired. Thus, for many years St. Martinville was the center of considerable culture. At one time, it was a summer resort for New Orleans society, and became known as “Le Petit Paris de la Louisiane.” The same “Joie de vivre” exists today.



### Culture and Recreation<sup>3</sup>

St. Martin Parish, home to the world’s largest freshwater river basin, the Atchafalaya Basin, provides nearly every type of outdoor recreational activity imaginable. Boat tours provide a close-up view of life in Acadiana. Bayou Teche meanders through Arnaudville, Cecilia, Breaux Bridge, Parks and St. Martinville, each with a beautiful Catholic church and above-ground cemetery. Breaux Bridge is proud to be known as the “Crawfish Capital of the World,” and swells to 100,000 plus during the first full weekend in May as visitors join in the fun. St. Martinville, the parish seat, is the third oldest town in Louisiana. Here, you’ll find many buildings and homes with beautiful architecture and the Evangeline Oak made famous in Longfellow’s poem of Evangeline and Gabriel.

**Parish Seat<sup>1</sup>** ..... St. Martinville<sup>1</sup>

### Major Cities (over 5,000 population)<sup>2</sup>

St. Martinville	
1990 .....	7,137
1997 (estimate) .....	7,510
Breaux Bridge	
1990 .....	6,515
1997 (estimate) .....	7,466

### Parish Population<sup>2</sup>

1990 .....	43,978
1997 (estimate) .....	46,555

Breakdown of 1996 population (estimates)<sup>6</sup>

White .....	64%
African American .....	35%
Other .....	1%
Male .....	49%
Female .....	51%
Population age 0-4 .....	8%
Populations age 65 & over .....	10%

**Geography and Statistics<sup>2</sup>**

Average elevation .....	19 ft.
Land area in square miles .....	739.9
Water area in square miles <sup>4</sup> .....	76.6

**Climate<sup>2</sup>**

## Average temperatures

Annual .....	67°
January .....	53°
July .....	81°
Annual average rainfall .....	57 in.

**Labor Force (1995)<sup>1</sup>**

Civilian .....	20,000
Employed .....	18,500
Unemployed .....	1,500
Unemployment .....	7.4%

**Agriculture<sup>1</sup>**

Sugarcane, rice and soybeans; diversified industry.

**Colleges/Universities<sup>2</sup>**

(within one hour commute)

University of Southwestern Louisiana,  
Lafayette

**Public Libraries<sup>5</sup>** ..... 8

**Educational Attainment (1990)<sup>7</sup>**

Less than 5th grade	11.0%
High school graduate or higher	53.7%
Some college or higher	19.8%
Bachelor's degree or higher	6.7%

**Major Employers (Products) and Number of Employees<sup>2</sup>****Private Employers**

Martin Mills, Inc. (Men's Underwear)	3,000
Hebert's Supermarkets (Groceries)	175
Processors, Inc. (Catfish)	120

**Public Employers**

St. Martin Parish School Board (Education)	960
St. Martin Parish Sheriff's Office (Government)	421
St. Martin Parish Police Jury (Government)	135

**Poverty and Income**

Persons in poverty (1995) <sup>7</sup>	21.5%
Children under age 18 in poverty <sup>7</sup>	30.8%
Per capita income (1996) <sup>8</sup>	\$13,773

*References*

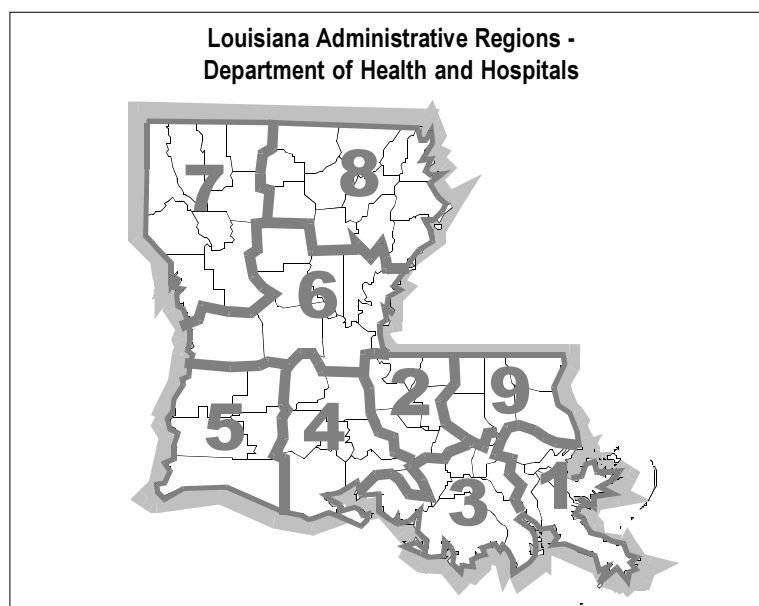
<sup>1</sup> Louisiana Almanac. 1997. Louisiana Almanac, Pelican Press. Gretna, LA

<sup>2</sup> Louisiana Department of Economic Development. 1999. Louisiana Overview. keyword: overview <http://lde.state.la.us>



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- <sup>3</sup> Louisiana Office of Tourism. 1998. keywords: regional information <http://www.crt.state.la.us/crt/tourism.htm>
- <sup>4</sup> Police Jury Association of Louisiana. <http://www.lpgov.org/>
- <sup>5</sup> State Library of Louisiana. keyword: directories <http://smt.state.lib.la.us/>
- <sup>6</sup> U.S. Bureau of the Census. 1998. Population Estimates. 1998. keywords: parish name <http://www.census.gov/datamap/www/22.html>
- <sup>7</sup> U.S. Bureau of the Census. 1998. keywords: people, poverty, small area income and poverty estimates <http://www.census.gov>
- <sup>8</sup> U.S. Department of Commerce, Economics and Statistics Administration. 1999. keywords: economics and statistical administration <http://www.doc.gov>



**Region 1**

Jefferson  
Orleans  
Plaquemines  
St. Bernard

**Region 2**

Ascension  
East Baton Rouge  
East Feliciana  
Iberville  
Pointe Coupee  
West Baton Rouge  
West Feliciana

**Region 3**

Assumption  
Lafourche  
St. Charles  
St. James  
St. John  
St. Mary  
Terrebonne

**Region 4**

Acadia  
Evangeline  
Iberia  
Lafayette  
St. Landry  
St. Martin  
Vermilion

**Region 5**

Allen  
Beauregard  
Calcasieu  
Cameron  
Jefferson Davis

**Region 6**

Avoyelles  
Catahoula  
Concordia  
Grant  
LaSalle  
Rapides  
Vernon  
Winn

**Region 7**

Bienville  
Bossier  
Caddo  
Claiborne  
DeSoto  
Natchitoches  
Red River  
Sabine  
Webster

**Region 8**

Caldwell  
East Carroll  
Franklin  
Jackson  
Lincoln  
Madison  
Morehouse  
Ouachita  
Richland  
Tensas  
Union  
West Carroll

**Region 9**

Livingston  
St. Helena  
St. Tammany  
Tangipahoa  
Washington